CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Soviet Equipment Used by the 21st Independent Engineer Battalion

25X1 DATE OF INFO.

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REFERENCES

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THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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[redacted]

1. The items of Soviet engineer equipment listed below were assigned to and used by the 21st Independent Sapper Bn. (Eng.) (Samodzielny Batalion Saperow) in Swidnica /5051N-1630E/ [redacted] 25X1
25X1 [redacted] all of the equipment and material mentioned below was of Soviet manufacture.

2. The following pontoon bridges were used for instructional purposes [redacted] 25X1
25X1 [redacted]

a. Light Pontoon Bridge (Lekki most pontonowy) - I have identified this bridge
25X1 [redacted] as the MLP Pontoon Bridge and Bridge Rafts. Practice pontoon bridges were constructed to a length of 30 to 40 m. Wooden pontoons with [redacted] timber decking were used. Approximately 20 cross timbers were laid for each two pontoons. The side curbs consisted of channel irons which were bolted together. The channel irons could easily be carried by three men. This type of bridge had a capacity of 5 to 10 tons. The largest vehicles using these bridges were 2½ tn. trucks. The 21st Sapper Bn. had 10 to 15 pontoons of this type in storage. Shore loading ramps for the bridge were made of metal and were three or four meters long.

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[redacted] 25X1

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

b. Heavy pontoon Bridge DMP-42-The heavy pontoon bridge, which I have identified [redacted] as the DMP-42 Bridge, was used for instructional purposes [redacted] The pontoons were constructed of wood; each section was approximately five meters long. The two outer sections had bow-shaped ends, while the inner section was rectangular. Channel iron curbs were used on the sides of the decking and were bolted together. Each channel iron weighed approximately 300 kg. and had to be carried by at least six men. Two or three section floats were constructed. The three-section float bridge had a capacity of 50 to 60 tn., while the two-section float bridge had a capacity of approximately 30 tn. The approach ramps were made of steel and were approximately five meters long.

c. A-3 Pneumatic Float-There were approximately 40 A-3 floats in storage at the 21st Sapper Bn. I did not see any bridges constructed with the use of these floats. They were made of rubber and were 15 to 20 ft. long. They could accommodate about 18 men. The floats were used singly as assault boats.

d. Two-man Pneumatic Float-Small two-man pneumatic floats were used [redacted] in planting demolition charges at bridges or simulated shore installations. Practical training was conducted at dusk. Two men entered the float and rowed out to a predetermined objective where simulated demolition charges were placed.

3. I saw the following land mines [redacted]

a. Soviet Tar-Paper "Yam" Mines-These were used for instructional purposes. They were waterproof, approximately 25 cm. in diameter, and weighed about five kilograms. The mines were constructed with a lower and an upper section. The lower section was slightly less in diameter than the upper section. The mine was armed by removing the upper section (cover) and setting the fuse. I have no further information concerning the detonating mechanism or explosive charge contained in the mine.

b. Wooden Anti-Tank Mine, YaM-5-Wooden AT mines, which I can identify [redacted] as the Soviet YaM-5, were used for instructional purposes. They were of the pressure type and weighed approximately six kilograms. Empty "dummy" mines were always used for instruction. There were two or three live mines of this type in my unit, but I did not see them detonated. I was told that these mines were not waterproof.

c. Tank Mine TMD-B (Tankowa Mina)-Commonly referred to as "Drewniany Brykiet" (Wooden Briquette). These were square, wooden mines, approximately 30 cm. long, 30 cm. wide, and 18 cm. high. They contained two briquette explosive charges. The weight of the entire mine was approximately five kilograms. This mine could only be used in dry places, because it was not waterproof. A weight of 80 kg. on the mine would set it off. I have no further information about this mine.

d. Magnetic, Hollow-Charge, Anti-Tank Mine-I saw one of these mines used [redacted] The mine was made of steel, was conical shaped, and weighed three kilograms. It had three magnets on the bottom portion. I was told that these mines were to be placed against the steel hulls of tanks, but I have no further information.

4. I also saw the following mines, grenades, and panzerfausts (anti-tank hand weapons) [redacted]

Tellermine, TM 42-43
Riegal, R-mi, 43
Anti-transport mine
Anti-personnel mine, Smi-44
Anti-personnel mine, POMZ, 6 and 7 (wood construction)
Stick hand grenade (15 cm.)
Panzerfaust, recoilless AT, bomb and launcher

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5. I saw one VIM-203 mine detector used during a demonstration [redacted] [redacted] It was equipped with a battery power pack and earphones. I was told that it was of Soviet make. I did not use this device myself, and have no further information.